

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01

L-03 /120 W

----- 121789

R 180300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2636

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8619

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REF: PHNOM PENH 8101, STATE 164251

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CONTINUING DELAYS IN MAKING JAPANESE RICE AVAILABLE TO THE GKR. AS POINTED OUT REFTEL, CRUCIAL PERIOD FOR CAMBODIA'S RICE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER TO BEGINNING OF DECEMBER. DURING THIS PERIOD GOJ'S ASSISTANCE COULD WELL SPELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BARELY ADEQUATE RICE SUPPLY AND A MAJOR RICE CRISIS. IN OUR VIEW IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT JAPANESE RICE ARRIVE BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER IF A DANGEROUS SITUATION IS TO BE AVERTED.

2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOJ YOU MAY WANT TO DRAW UPON FOLLOWING PROJECTION OF RICE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR CAMBODIA DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST-DECEMBER 1973.

|                     | AUG    | SEPT   | OCT   | NOV   | DEC   |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| BEGINNING STOCK     | 26,445 | 22,037 | 9,687 | 9,317 | 4,467 |
| INTERNAL DELIVERIES | 6,944  | ----   | ----  | ----  | ----  |
| IMPORTS             |        |        |       |       |       |

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A) PL 480      1,264    ----    ----    ----    35,000

|                   |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| B) THAI           | 5,000  | 5,000  | 12,500 | 12,500 | ----   |
| C) JAPANESE       | ----   | ----   | 5,000  | ----   | ----   |
| TOTAL AVAILABLE   | 39,653 | 27,037 | 27,187 | 21,817 | 39,467 |
| LESS DISTRIBUTION | 17,616 | 17,350 | 17,870 | 17,350 | 17,870 |
| END STOCK         | 22,037 | 9,687  | 9,317  | 4,467  | 21,597 |
| DAYS SUPPLY       | 38     | 17     | 16     | 8      | 38     |

3. THE ABOVE PROJECTION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS:

- A) THE DOMESTIC RICE AVAILABILITIES FOR PHNOM PENH AND OTHER GKR CONTROLLED TERRITORIES ARE VIRTUALLY EXHAUSTED BY MID-AUGUST.
- B) THAT 10,000 M/T OF THAI RICE ALREADY PURCHASED FROM THAILAND WIL IN FACT ARRIVE IN CAMBODIA DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.
- C) THAT 25,000 M/T OF THAI RICE AND 5,000 M/T OF JAPANESE RICE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GKR AND THAT SHIPMENTS WILL ARRIVE AT THE LATEST IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, AS INDICATED IN THE TABLE ABOVE.
- D) THAT CONSUMPTION REQUIRMENTS WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY LOW AT 575 MXT PER DAY.

4. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THE THAIGOVERNMENT (WHICH IS PRESENTLY RESTRICTING EXPORT) WILL MAKE AN ADDITIONAL 25,000 M/T OF RICE AVAILABLE TO THE GKR. IT IS ALSO FAR FROM CERTAIN THT CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT INCREASE AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST WHEN RICE STOCKS DIMINISH. IN SUMMARY THE JAPANESE RICE CONTRIBUTION IS URGENTLY REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER IF THE GKR IS TO AVERT A CRISIS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF GOJ PRESENT INTENTIONS AND IF FURTHER DELAYS ARE EXPECTED, WHAT APPROACH THE U.S. AND/OR THE GKR COULD OR SHOULD MAKE TO GET THE RICE MOVING.

SWANK

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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